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CLEANING SLIDES AND COVERS FOR DARK-FIELD WORK

As particles of dirt show with the same brilliancy as the bodies one wishes to study, the slides and covers must be made very clean.

One of the most satisfactory ways of cleaning the slides is that suggested by Stitt in his book on the blood etc., p. 235, 5th Ed. near the top. I have found the modification here given very satisfactory:

(1) 5 grams of powdered Bon Ami are mixed with 100 cc of water and thoroughly shaken up.

(2) New slides and covers are put into this mixture and well wetted, then they are taken out and stood up on blotting paper to drain and dry. The method answers well also for the final polishing of cover-glasses that have been cleaned in acid-dichromate mixture, and for used slides that have been cleaned in any approved method.

(3) Whenever one wants a slide or a cover one of those on which is the dried Bon Ami is taken and wiped with a clean piece of gauze. It is astonishing how quickly and well the cleaning can be done in this way. Very few of them show any particles of dirt with the dark-field microscope.

(4) Cleaning the used slides and covers.—Hot water is allowed to flow on the slide to wash off the oil, then the cover is removed and put into cleaning mixture (Sulfuric acid and dichromate). The slide can usually be well cleaned with the Bon Ami.

S. H. GAGE.